

**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2003**

At 8:05 a.m. Chairman Lee Panza in Conference Room C of San Mateo City Hall, called the meeting to order.

Members Attending: Lee Panza, Sue Lempert, Joe Silva, Irene O'Connell, Marland Townsend, and Marc Hershman.

Staff/Guests Attending: Mike King (C/CAG Chairman), Walter Martone (C/CAG Staff - County Public Works), Richard Napier (C/CAG Executive Director), Brian Moura (City of San Carlos).

1. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

None

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Summary of bills that may be of interest to C/CAG.

The Committee focused its attention on SCA 2 as a priority to take action on early in the Legislative Session. This Constitutional Amendment will authorize cities, counties, and regional agencies to impose a sales tax exclusively to fund transportation projects and smart growth planning with only a majority approval of the voters. Currently a two-thirds vote is required. Enactment of this Amendment by the voters would greatly improve the chances for passage of a reauthorization for the San Mateo County Measure A (Half Cent Sales Tax) Transportation Program that will be expiring in 2008. There was consensus that this bill or something that accomplishes the same objective, should be a priority for referral to the C/CAG lobbyist to advocate for passage.

The majority of the discussion on this item involved whether the bill as written, requiring only a 51% vote of the electorate, would have a good chance of passage in the Legislature and ultimately at the ballot box. A number of members felt that a 55% vote would be better received. It was also noted that this bill as written requires that 25% of the revenues collected from such a sales tax, must be spent on smart growth planning.

Motion: To recommend that the C/CAG Board support SCA 2 as currently written and that it be referred to the C/CAG lobbyist with direction to advocate for its passage. Also, if another bill accomplishes the same objective of reducing the percent of voter approval required to enact a special sales tax increase for transportation purposes, the lobbyist should also advocate for that bill. Townsend/Lempert, motion passed with 4 ayes and 2 nos. The two objections were because the two members felt that 55% voter approval would be more likely to garner the support of the Legislature than a simple majority.

If this recommendation is approved by the C/CAG Board, the Committee requested that the

following additional steps be taken:

- Staff should develop a sample letter of support to provide to all of the C/CAG member agencies along with a copy of the bill. They should be requested to approve and send the letter to the appropriate legislators and the C/CAG lobbyist.
- Committee Member Marland Townsend, as the San Mateo County Cities delegate to the League of California Cities, will be requested to communicate the C/CAG position on this bill to the League.

C/CAG staff also noted that another possible legislative item deals with the Parks and Recreation Bonds approved as Propositions 40 and 51. There may be some state regulations that place San Mateo County at a disadvantage in being able to qualify for these funds. The Legislative Committee suggested that another C/CAG Committee that was more appropriate take up this item.

3. Potential legislative proposals.

The Committee reviewed a list of potential proposals for C/CAG to take a leadership role in developing and advocating for. In the following priority order, the Committee decided to recommend to C/CAG that the following items be explored further:

- Develop a San Mateo County pilot project to allow the local imposition of a surcharge on the Motor Vehicle Registration Fee to support congestion management and smart growth programs. Staff was instructed to contact the San Mateo County Legislative Delegation to get their input on this idea. Consideration should also be given to using this possible funding source to meet the cities' and County's requirement to contribute funding under the Congestion Relief Plan adopted by C/CAG. The proposal should include a way to measure the effectiveness of the programs funded with these monies. Staff was also asked to look into whether there are any bills at the Federal level (Environmental Protection Agency) where this concept might also be included.
- Redefine the NPDES program as a sewer project under Proposition 218. Sewer projects are exempted from the Proposition 218 requirement for a two-thirds vote before imposing additional fees. Jurisdictions would not be required to impose a fee if they did not want to. Staff was requested to solicit input from the city managers and public works directors (particularly San Bruno and Brisbane), before advancing this proposal too far.
- Propose using funding under Proposition 46 to pay the difference between prevailing and non-prevailing wages for certain public housing projects. The local jurisdiction would have to prove the added cost and then apply to the State for funding.

Motion: To request that staff develop proposals on the three items for consideration at the next Legislative Committee meeting. O'Connell/Townsend, unanimous.

The Committee briefly discussed two other proposals.

- Develop an alternative approach to ensuring compliance with the State's housing element requirements. Focus this approach on incentives instead of the punitive measures that were included in SB 910. It was noted that the League of California Cities might be developing a proposal in this area that C/CAG may want to support. Staff was requested to survey the cities to determine which ones have had their housing elements approved by the State.
- Consider supporting some of the proposals by the California League of Cities for ways to

address the budget deficit. It was suggested that all of the League's proposals in this area should be supported.

4. How to keep local jurisdictions informed and involved in the legislative process.

The Committee discussed potential ways of ensuring that local jurisdictions in San Mateo County are kept involved in the activities of the Legislative Committee. The follow suggestions were made:

- Invite a school board representative to attend the Legislative Committee meetings.
- Legislative Committee Chair should provide regular reports of the Committee's activities at each C/CAG Board meeting.
- Regular reports should be provided at the meetings of –
 - The City Managers' Association
 - The C/CAG Technical Advisory Committee
 - The C/CAG Congestion Management and Air Quality Committee]
- Each C/CAG Members should provide regular reports to their Councils/Board on the activities of the Legislative Committee and request that these reports be forwarded to the press and the local Chamber of Commerce.
- C/CAG should publish a one-page regular report on the activities of the Legislative Committee.
- Legislative Committee Members should invite other Councilmembers (particularly from cities not currently represented on the Committee) to attend Committee meetings.
- A written report of the Committee should be included in each C/CAG packet.
- All cities/County should be requested to provide items that they would like considered by the Legislative Committee.
- Consider sending e-mails to all Councilpersons inviting them to contact the Legislative Committee on items of interest.
- Every time a matter is referred to the C/CAG lobbyist, each city should receive a draft resolution to pass.
- The members of the San Mateo County State Legislative Delegation and/or their staff should be invited to attend and provide regular reports at the Legislative Committee meetings.

5. Election of Vice Chair.

Sue Lempert was nominated and unanimously elected as the Vice Chair.

6. Adjournment.

At 9:50 a.m. the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Committee was set for February 8th at 8:00 a.m. at San Mateo City Hall. It was delayed one week due to a conflict with the C/CAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.